

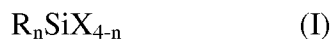
Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. – 38. (cancelled)

39. (currently amended) A consolidated material, wherein before consolidation the material is at least one of porous and particulate and wherein the material is consolidated with a consolidating agent which is particle-free and comprises at least one of a hydrolysate and a precondensate of (a) one or more organosilanes of formula (I)



wherein the radicals R independently represent non-hydrolysable groups, the radicals X independently represent hydrolysable groups or hydroxyl groups, and n is 1, 2 or 3, ~~at least one of the one or more organosilanes of formula (I) being an arylsilane;~~ and (b) ~~optionally,~~ one or more hydrolysable silanes of formula (II)



wherein the radicals X are as defined for formula (I),

provided that the agent comprises at least one of a hydrolysate and a precondensate of compounds which comprise methyltriethoxysilane, phenyltriethoxysilane, and tetraethoxysilane.

40. - 42. (cancelled)

43. (currently amended) The consolidated material of claim 39, wherein the at least one of a hydrolysate and a precondensate has been prepared in the presence of one or more metal compounds of formula (III)



wherein M is selected from metals of main groups I to VIII ~~and~~ or subgroups II to VIII of the Periodic Table of Elements and wherein the radicals X independently represent hydrolysable groups or hydroxyl groups and two radicals X may be combined to form an oxo group, and a corresponds to the valence of M.

44. (previously presented) The consolidated material of claim 39, wherein before consolidation the material is porous.

45. (previously presented) The consolidated material of claim 44, wherein the material comprises sandstone.

46. (previously presented) The consolidated material of claim 39, wherein the consolidated material is present as a molded article.

47. (previously presented) The consolidated material of claim 46, wherein the material before consolidation comprises sand.

48. (previously presented) The consolidated material of claim 46, wherein the material before consolidation comprises granules.

49. (previously presented) The consolidated material of claim 46, wherein the material before consolidation comprises one or more of glass, a metal powder, a ceramic powder, glass-ceramic, and a cermet.

50. – 54. (cancelled)

55. (new) A consolidated material, wherein before consolidation the material is at least one of porous and particulate and comprises sandstone and wherein the material is consolidated with a consolidating agent which is particle-free and comprises at least one of a hydrolysate and a precondensate of (a) one or more organosilanes of formula (I)



wherein the radicals R independently represent non-hydrolysable groups, the radicals X independently represent hydrolysable groups or hydroxyl groups, and n is 1, 2 or 3, at least one of the one or more organosilanes of formula (I) being an arylsilane; and (b) optionally, one or more hydrolysable silanes of formula (II)



wherein the radicals X are as defined for formula (I).

56. (new) The consolidated material of claim 55, wherein the agent comprises at least one of a hydrolysate and a precondensate of compounds comprising (a1) an alkylsilane, (a2) an arylsilane, and (b) an orthosilicic ester.

57. (new) The consolidated material of claim 55, wherein the at least one of a hydrolysate and a precondensate has been prepared in the presence of one or more metal compounds of formula (III)



wherein M is selected from metals of main groups I to VIII or subgroups II to VIII of the Periodic Table of Elements and wherein the radicals X independently represent hydrolysable groups or hydroxyl groups and two radicals X may be combined to form an oxo group, and a corresponds to the valence of M.

58. (new) The consolidated material of claim 55, wherein before consolidation the material is porous.

59. (new) The consolidated material of claim 55, wherein the consolidated material is present as a molded article.

60. (new) A consolidated material, wherein before consolidation the material is at least one of porous and particulate and comprises sand and wherein the material is consolidated with a consolidating agent which is particle-free and comprises at least one of a hydrolysate and a precondensate of (a) one or more organosilanes of formula (I)



wherein the radicals R independently represent non-hydrolysable groups, the radicals X independently represent hydrolysable groups or hydroxyl groups, and n is 1, 2 or 3, at

least one of the one or more organosilanes of formula (I) being an arylsilane; and (b) optionally, one or more hydrolysable silanes of formula (II)



wherein the radicals X are as defined for formula (I).

61. (new) The consolidated material of claim 60, wherein the agent comprises at least one of a hydrolysate and a precondensate of compounds comprising (a1) an alkylsilane, (a2) an arylsilane, and (b) an orthosilicic ester.

62. (new) The consolidated material of claim 60, wherein the at least one of a hydrolysate and a precondensate has been prepared in the presence of one or more metal compounds of formula (III)



wherein M is selected from metals of main groups I to VIII or subgroups II to VIII of the Periodic Table of Elements and wherein the radicals X independently represent hydrolysable groups or hydroxyl groups and two radicals X may be combined to form an oxo group, and a corresponds to the valence of M.

63. (new) The consolidated material of claim 60, wherein before consolidation the material is porous.

64. (new) The consolidated material of claim 60, wherein the consolidated material is present as a molded article.